

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 260

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to commend Sara Kyle for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Sara Kyle of Memphis is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, from July 1996 to March 2013, Sara Kyle distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good citizens of Tennessee as a Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority; and

WHEREAS, born in 1952, Sara Kyle is one of six children born to Bruce and Emma Gene Clement Peery and was educated in the public schools of Tennessee; she attended Lincoln Elementary School in Kingsport, graduated from Dickson High School, and enrolled in the University of Tennessee at Knoxville before earning her undergraduate degree at Austin Peay State University in 1975; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Sara Kyle earned her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Nashville School of Law where she put to use the extraordinary insight into the passage of law she had obtained during her ten-year tenure with the Tennessee General Assembly as Executive Assistant to her aunt, State Senator Anna Belle Clement O'Brien, from 1976 to 1986; and

WHEREAS, prior to passing the bar, she worked as a law clerk with the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter in Nashville before entering private practice with the firm of Chambers, Kyle, and Durham in Memphis, where she also served as an assistant public defender; and

WHEREAS, a member of a family with a proud tradition of public service to elective office, Sara Kyle chose to seek public office and follow in the footsteps of her uncle, Tennessee Governor Frank G. Clement; her aunt, State Senator Anna Belle Clement O'Brien; and her cousin, Congressman Bob Clement; and

WHEREAS, with hard work and determination, Sara Kyle won election to Memphis City Court, Division II, in 1991 and presided as Judge for that esteemed court, hearing both criminal and civil cases; and

WHEREAS, in March 1994, Judge Kyle resigned from the bench to become a candidate for the Public Service Commission – a race in which she stressed a strong ethics and reform program, refusing special interest money, as a way to restore public confidence in the agency; and

WHEREAS, winning the vote of the people in the 1994 election, Sara Kyle became a recognized advocate for the citizens of Tennessee and was nominated by Speaker Jimmy Naifeh of the Tennessee House of Representatives to serve on the new Tennessee Regulatory Authority in 1996, following the reorganization of the Public Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, reappointed in 2002 and again in 2008, Sara Kyle performed all her duties with acumen and alacrity, establishing herself as a thoughtful and deliberate official who always considered the greater good for both Tennessee businesses and ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, recognized as an influential and respected leader, she was the longest-serving board member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), which she served on the Communications Committee, a board member of the North American Numbering Council (NANC), and a past president of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Sara Kyle was named Distinguished Alumni at the Nashville School of Law in 2004, one of *The Tennessean's* 10 Most Political Women in 2011, and the winner of the 1st Annual Henry Ragen Memorial Scholarship Award; and

WHEREAS, throughout her long and distinguished career as a public servant, Sara Kyle has worked tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of Tennessee, bringing to her office an honorable bearing and the time-honored values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Sara Kyle lends her time and talents to a number of charitable and civic organizations and is a faithful member of Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Sara Kyle is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband, State Senator Jim Kyle, and their four children, Sarah, Mary, Jim, and Caroline; and

WHEREAS, Sara Kyle is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that, on the occasion of her retirement from the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, we hereby honor and commend Sara Kyle for her meritorious service to the people of Tennessee and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.